

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 SAJ-01 NIC-01 CU-04 EB-11

COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 DRC-01 /155 W

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R 081103Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4479

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, UR

SUBJECT CONNORS VISIT; CONVERSATION WITH BREZHNEV

1. FILM ACTOR CHUCK CONNORS MET WITH GENSEC BREZHNEV FOR AN HOUR AND A HALF AT THE KREMLIN ON FRIDAY. CONNORS WAS CALLED TO THE LATE AFTERNOON MEETING FROM A DINNER IN HIS HONOR AT THE HOUSE OF FILMS (DOM KINO), THE SOCIAL MEETING PLACE FOR MOSCOW'S FILM WORLD.

2. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS CONNORS SAID THAT BREZHNEV EMPHASIZED HIS CONFIDENCE IN PRESIDENT NIXON AND IN THE POLICY OF DETENTE. BREZHNEV POINTED TO THE UPCOMING MEETING IN 1974 WITH PRESIDENT NIXON AND SAID THAT EVEN BIGGER THINGS WOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED AT THAT TIME. HE ALSO TOLD CONNORS THAT HE AND PRESIDENT NIXON WOULD MEET AGAIN IN 1975 TO CONTINUE EXPANDING DETENTE. CONNORS SAID THAT ALTHOUGH BREZHNEV DID NOT REFER TO THE MIDDLE EAST BY NAME HE DID SAY THAT DETENTE HAD ALREADY PROVED ITS STRENGTH BY SURVIVING SOME STRAINS. BREZHNEV ALSO SAID MANY AMERICANS, INCLUDING IMPORTANT MEMBERS OF THE BUSINESS

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COMMUNITY, UNDERSTOOD THE GOALS THAT HE AND PRESIDENT NIXON

WERE PURSUING AND SUPPORTED THEM. HE REFERRED TO SECRETARY OF TREASURY SCHULTZ, JOHH CONNALY AND ARMAND HAMMER BY NAME IN THIS CONNECTION.

3. ACCORDING TO CONNORS THE MEETING WAS VERY FRIENDLY AND BREZHNEV WAS WELL FILLED IN ON THE DETAILS OF HIS TRIP. WHEN BREZHNEV VOLUNTARILY MENTIONED THE FAMOUS HUGGING INCIDENT AT THE SAN CLEMENTE HELIOPAD CONNORS ASKED HIM HOW HE FELT ABOUT IT. HE POINTED OUT THAT SOME PEOPLE EVIDENTLY THOUGHT IT PUT BREZHNEV IN AN UNDIGNIFIED POSITION BUT THAT HE FELT IT DEMONSTRATED THAT DETENTE REACHED DOWN TO THE PERSONAL LEVEL. BREZHNEV SAID HE AGREED. (COMMENT: THE INCIDENT WAS CARRIED LIVE ON SOVIET TELEVISION AND WAS THEN REPEATED ON TWO SUBSEQUENT SHOWINGS OF THE TAPE. HOWEVER, THEREAFTER THE INCIDENT WAS DELETED FROM THE FILM REPORT OF BREZHNEV'S DEPARTURE FROM SAN CLEMENTE.) BREZHNEV SPENT SEVERAL MINUTES SHOWING CONNORS PERSONAL PHOTOGRAPHS OF HIMSELF, INCLUDING PICTURES OF BREZHNEV WEARING ONE OF THE COLT SIX SHOOTERS CONNORS HAD PRESENTED TO HIM AT SAN CLEMENTE. THE PHOTO WAS TAKEN AT A BOAR HUNT NEAR KIEV WITH TITO DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION. BREZHNEV TOLD CONNORS THAT HE USED THE PISTOL TO DELIVER THE COUP DE GRACE TO HIS KILLS. AT SAME TIME BREZHNEV PRESENTED CONNORS WITH AUTOGRAPHED FORMAL PICTURE OF HIMSELF.

4. SEVERAL TIMES DURING CONVERSATION, AS BREZHNEV WOULD MAKE A POINT ABOUT DETENTE, HE WOULD TELL CONNORS HIS REMARKS WERE ON THE RECORD AND THAT CONNORS WAS FREE TO MAKE PUBLIC WHAT PASSED BETWEEN THEM. AT END OF MEETING CONNORS ASKED IF HE COULD HAVE A TRANSCRIPT SINCE HE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO REMEMBER IN DETAIL ALL MR. BREZHNEV'S REMARKS. ACCORDING TO CONNORS, BREZHNEV AGREED AND PROMISED TO HAVE IT DELIVERED BEFORE CONNORS DEPARTED MOSCOW FOR LONDON DECEMBER 9. DURING CONVERSATION CAMERA CREWS FROM THE STATE COMMITTEE OF CINEMATOGRAPHY, WHICH HAVE BEEN SHOOTING FOOTAGE OF THE CONNORS TRIP FOR A JOINT SOVIET-AMERICAN TV SPECIAL, WERE ALLOWED TO TAKE MOVING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND STILL PICTURES OF THE TWO MEN.
DUBS

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS, MOTION PICTURES, VISITS
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Draft Date: 08 DEC 1973
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Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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